

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NASSAU 0975

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS BF
SUBJ: WALL STREET JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT

REF: NASSAU 0967 AND PREVIOUS

1. WALL STREET JOURNAL REPORTER, RAYMOND JOSEPH, DEPARTED THE BAHAMAS AFTERNOON OF JULY 7 RATHER THAN ACCEPT CONDITIONS IMPOSED BY BAHAMIAN GOVERNMENT (SEE REFTEL). JOURNAL MANAGING EDITOR O'DONNELL IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT "WE CONSIDERED LETTING HIM STAY BUT DECIDED THAT HE SHOULD LEAVE." ASKED WHETHER SOMEONE ELSE WOULD BE SENT TO COMPLETE THE ELECTION COVERAGE O'DONNELL STATED "WE HAVEN'T DEVIDED WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO ABOUT THAT YET."

2. FOLLOWING IS PRESS RELEASE ISSUED JULY 7 BY OFFICIAL BAHAMAS INFORMATION SERVICES:

RAYMOND JOSEPH

NASSAU, BAHAMAS -- RAYMOND JOSEPH A CORRESPONDENT FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL AND FORMER LEADER OF THE HAITIAN COALITION IS LEAVING THE BAHAMAS TODAY ALTHOUGH THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS SAID HE COULD REMAIN IN THE COUNTRY UNTIL JULY 11 TO COMPLETE AN ASSIGNMENT. JOSEPH HAD ENTERED THE BAHAMAS LAST FRIDAY (JULY 1).

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"JOSEPH WAS PLACED ON THE BAHAMAS' STOP LIST IN MARCH, 1969 AS AN UNDESIRABLE IMMIGRANT. PRIOR TO THAT, ON OCTOBER 31, 1967, HE HAD BEEN REFUSED ENTRY TO THE BAHAMAS, AND THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, THEN RESPONSIBLE FOR BAHAMIAN SECURITY AND FORIEGN AFFAIRS HAD BEEN ADVISED NOT TO USSUE VISAS TO JOSEPH.

THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT, ACCORDING TO AN INFOMMATION

SERVICES SPOKESMAN, BELIEVES THAT JOSEPH IN THE PAST HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN USING BAHAMIAN ISLANDS AS STAGING AREAS FOR TRAINING HAITIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN MILITARY ACTIONS AGAINST THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT.

JOSEPH IN 1969 ACCUSED BAHAMIAN PRIME MINISTERB LYNDEN PINDLING OF MAKING A "DEAL" WITH THE LATE PRESIDENT OF HAITI, DR. FRANCOIS DUVALIER, OVER THE DEATH SENTENCE OF FOUR HAITIANS CONVICTED OF ASSINATING THE HAITIAN CONSUL IN FREEPORT, GRAND BAHAMA. MR. PINDLING CHARACTERISED JOSEPH'S ALLEGATIONS AS "POLITICAL BLACKMAIL" AND "SCURRILOUS INSINUATIONS."

AFTER HE WAS PLACED ON THE STOP LIST AS AN UNDESIREABLE IMMIGRANT, JOSJPH TOLD THE NASSAU GUARDIAN IN A TELEPHONE INTERVIEW FROM NEW YORK THAT THE BAN WOULD NOT STOP HIM FROM ENTERING THE COLONY IF HE SO DESIRED AND THAT "THEY WILL HAVE TO WATCH ALL OF THE 700 ISLANDS."

"IT SEEMS THAT THE BAHAMAS GOVERNMENT HAS A VENDETTA GOING AGAINST ME," HE ADDED.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS OFFERED JOSEPH AN OPPORTUNITY TO COMPLETE HIS ASSIGNMENT, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL SAFEGUARDS OF FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION ENJOYED BY ALL IN THE BAHAMAS.

TWO CONDITIONS WERE ATTACHED TO THE OFFER -- THAT JOSEPH REPORT TO THE POLICE EACH DAY WHILE HERE AND THAT HE ISSUE A STATEMENT THAT HE UNDERSTANDS WHY HE IS ON THE STOP LIST AND THAT THERE IS NO RELATION BETWEEN HIS CONFIDENTIAL

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PRESENT DIFFICULTIES WITH IMMIGRATION AND HIS ASSIGNMENT FROM THE WALL STREET JOURNAL. JOSEPH AND THE EDITORS OF THE JOURNAL REFUSED TO ACCEPT THESE CONDITIONS.

THE SPOKESMAN SAID THAT CONCERN FOR JOSEPH'S PERSONAL SAFETY HAD PROMPTED THE CONDITION THAT HE REPORT TO THE POLICE EACH DAY. THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS HAD ALSO OFFERED JOSEPH A POLICE ESCORT IF HE WISHED BECAUSE OF THE LARGE NUMBER OF HAITIANS HERE, MANY OF THEM BELIEVED TO BE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF THE HAITIAN GOVERNMENT.

IT IS POINTED OUT BY THE SPOKESMAN THAT FEELING COULD RUN HIGH AMONG HAITIANS HERE AS A RESULT OF REPORTS PUBLISHED IN THE LOCAL PRESS OF ALLEGED CRIMES RELATED TO MEMBERS OF THE HAITIAN COALITION.

THE HAITIAN CONSUL IN NASSAU, THE SPOKESMAN SAID, BECAME CONCERNED ABOUT HIS OWN PERSONAL SECURITY AND, AS A RESULT, THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE HAS PROVIDED ADDITIONAL PROTECTION" UNQUOTE

3. PERHAPS THE MOST INTERESTING FACET OF CASE WAS RAISED BY MINEXTAFF PERMSEC RUSSELL DURING YESTERDAYS CALL ON ANOTHER MATTER. ACCORDING TO RUSSELL, WALL STREET JOURNAL "HAS IT IN FOR BAHAMAS," AND HAS FOR SOME TIME ATTEMPTED

TO DISCREDIT PRESENT GOVERNMENT. HE FURTHER STATED THAT ADDERLEY AND OTHER GOVERNMENT MINISTERS HAD KNOWN FOR SOME TIME THAT A JOURNAL REPORTER WOULD BE COMING TO NASSAU AND STRONGLY INTIMATED THAT CHOICE OF RAYMOND JOSEPH TO COVER ELECTIONS WAS PART AND PARCEL OF PAPER'S ALLEGED VENDETTA. WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT POSSIBLE MOTIVATION HE PAUSED, SMILED AND MUMBLED THE FEEBLE RESPONSE OF "INCREASED CIRCULATION." RUSSELL, IMMIGRATION DIRECTOR BARBARA PIERRE, AND TOURISM/INFORMATION PERMSEC, BALFROM BETHEL HAVE AT THE SAME TIME ALL GONE OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ASSURE EMBASSY THAT GCOB WAS VERY MUCH AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL HARMFUL CONSEQUENCES OF ITS ACTION WITH REGARD TO JOSEPH, HAD GONE MORE THAN HALFWAY TO RESOLVE PROBLEM AND REGRETTED THAT THEIR EFFORTS HAD BEEN REBUFFED BY

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JOSEPH AND THE JOURNAL. WE AGREE THAT THIS HAS BEEN THE CASE AND ONLY HOPE THAT MATTER WILL BE SOON FORGOTTEN.

TAYLOR

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